

## **Stonewall Columbus Pride March Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why do we march?**

The annual Stonewall Columbus Pride March brings together the LGBTQ+ community, our allies, and our supporters to stand up for rights and justice for all in these communities who are still oppressed and unheard, and to commemorate and celebrate our collective accomplishments and those of whom have paved the way before us.

### **Where does the money from registration fees and March donations go?**

Bringing the Stonewall Columbus Pride March to life every year is expensive. Between supplies, equipment rental, insurance, security, and administrative overhead, the cost of the annual event has risen dramatically from our early days. In addition to this, the Stonewall Columbus Pride March ends at our Pride Festival, which is free to attend, but costs the organization money to produce. Any profit from the Stonewall Columbus Pride March and Festival goes directly back to the Stonewall Columbus Center to provide many valuable services including counseling, health services, hygiene kits, food and grocery vouchers, legal and financial seminars, and a number of support groups for our LGBTQ+ community members, senior adults, and transgender community—among others.

### **How can I participate in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March? Can I just show up that day and join somewhere?**

As a permitted event, all participants in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March **must** be a part of a registered group, you can find the march registration on our website. We cannot allow people to simply drop in and registrations will not be accepted on the day of the March. To participate in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March, you must either form your own registered group or join an existing group.

### **What is this year's theme?**

The 2024 theme for Stonewall Columbus is “**Live Out Loud.**” Fifty-five years post the Stonewall Uprisings we have much to celebrate but far more left in our fight. The “Live Out Loud” theme encourages individuals from all backgrounds to proudly showcase their true selves--to share their joy. It's a celebration of the progress we've made while recognizing the ongoing struggles within our community. The theme also serves as a reminder that living openly and authentically is a form of activism, it is protest, and pushes us towards a more inclusive future.

Columbus' first Pride march in 1981 saw 200 people marching from the Ohio State University to the Statehouse in commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising. In 2024 Columbus will recognize 43 years of leading the Ohio community in the celebration and recognition of the LGBTQ+ community across Central Ohio.

In the state of Ohio, our community can still be denied/evicted from housing or fired from our jobs just because of our sexual orientation or gender identity, so it is important for us to stand up and let our voices be heard. We stand ever firmly in line with the BIPOC members of our community, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our transgender community members, of all ages, we stand at the ready to uplift and make space for all members of our LGBTQ+ community and all our communities that demand inclusion, full enfranchisement, and equality before the law. Stonewall Columbus encourages our communities, queer and not queer, to remember the purpose of why we march, to show-up with your passion for the LGBTQ+ community and believe in the combined power we have to create a space where queer identities can show up as their most authentic selves and be celebrated!

## **Where will we appear in the Stonewall Columbus Pride March?**

We take many things into consideration when arranging the March, including tradition, recognition, groups with sound and more. Our primary goal is to make sure that the Stonewall Columbus Pride March is a reflection of the LGBTQ+ community's compelling story from beginning to end. As we consider placement in the march we work to ensure that LGBTQ+ groups and organizations (local then national) are given priority placement. As this is a march, not a parade, we work to give appropriate placement to contingents without vehicles, we then consider our [Pride 365 partners](#) who's support is critical to empowering our organization's work, and then our community partners through whom we have expanded our opportunity to connect the LGBTQ+/queer community to services and resources our organization may not be able to directly provide. All other marching contingents are reviewed on date of registration and prior participation in the march. Requests for group placement will not be accepted.

## **How long is the March?**

For participants, it typically takes about 60-75 minutes to travel the approximate 2 mile-route from formation to dispersal. This year, the March will kick off at 10:30 AM near the intersection of High St. and Broad St.

## **How long will our group have to wait in the staging area?**

That depends on where you are placed in the March order and the policies that will be announced at March Ambassador Training. Based on past experiences, it could be anywhere from 1-3 hours before your group officially enters the March. We encourage you to plan for food, water, sunscreen, and

other necessities. In the past few years, the March has grown to include over 250 groups, attracting thousands of spectators. While this is great news, it means that we have a very long event. Our desire to make sure the March is compelling for spectators and participants alike must be balanced against the need for public safety and organization.

### **How do we know what type of group we should register as?**

Please review the [2024 Fee Schedule](#) for rates and registration types. If you are unsure which registration type your group falls under, please contact us at (614) 299-7764 or [pridemarch@stonewallcolumbus.org](mailto:pridemarch@stonewallcolumbus.org) to discuss your situation.

### **What do I do if, after registration, we decide to change our plans (e.g., adding a sound system, adding a vehicle, more marchers than anticipated, etc.)?**

Please contact [pridemarch@stonewallcolumbus.org](mailto:pridemarch@stonewallcolumbus.org) or (614) 299-7764 with any changes as soon as possible. Additional vehicles cannot be added after Monday, May 15 at 5:00PM.

### **How much room will we have for our banner/equipment, etc.?**

The March down High Street is quite spacious, however, there could be many turns depending on your location in line up. There will also be a turn for vehicles from High to Buttles for deconstruction and stopping. We recommend that you keep your banners and vehicles less than 16 feet wide and no more than 12 feet high.

### **Can I bring a pet?**

Stonewall Columbus does not permit live animals in the March--walking or riding. This excludes certified service animals. The March is typically long, hot, and loud which can easily exhaust and frighten pets. For their comfort and the safety of the March, please leave your animals at home.

### **How are participating organizations recognized at the March?**

Music, costumes, choreography, chants, or props can all help you stand out amongst the 200+ groups marching through downtown Columbus in support of the LGBTQ+ community. This year we're asking contingents to create a sign or banner with their organization or group name to identify your march contingent. Additionally, groups will be asked to provide a description of their organization, mission and the work you do. We strongly encourage you to showcase your creativity—always check-in with us if there are any questions!